

## Montessori Students Visit Concord Shop

**A**bout 40 students from the Pioneer Montessori Pre-School in Pleasant Hill got an inside look at BART's Concord Shop on January 27 during a special field trip arranged just for them. Gregory Graham, whose son, Ian, age 5, attends the school, helped put everything together after he got a call from the school's director, Bernice Soohoo-Lee. Gregory is a systems maintenance quality assurance inspector at the Concord Shop.

"She found out I worked at BART, and the kids were interested

in seeing what the shop looked like," said Gregory, who recruited several others to set up an interested and exciting visit for the children, aged 3-1/2 to six. "Safety first" was the motto for the day, and Dave Noecker helped Gregory secure bump hats for everyone, including 38 students and



18 adult chaperones. Shop Manager James Wiscarson and Transit Vehicle Mechanic Brad Burguin led the tour perfectly tailored to the age group. "The children also got to

*see Montessori on page 8*

## Spring Into Bowling

**N**ow that it's Spring, the rain and wind are making your flowers grow quickly and spout pollen. Escape the allergy blues by taking in an afternoon of bowling with friends and family. The BART Bowling League welcomes all to its monthly singles tournaments, which rotate among bowling alleys throughout the East Bay. The next tourney is Saturday, April 17 at Diablo Valley Bowl in Concord at 3 p.m.

*see Bowling on page 8*



**25 Years with BART:** Congratulations to BART employees reaching 25 years of service with the District: (kneeling, front row, left to right) Anthony Hampton, Walter Dilbeck, Mary McMillen, Cal Coleman, Alfonso Amey, Harold Hacker, Richard Ting, John Chapman and Robert Mina. Congratulations also to (standing, left to right) Jim Albericci, George Roth, Curtis Owen, Larry Cooper, Jerry Smith, Robert Urakawa, Minna Green, Michael Kincaid, James Archie, Ernest Green, Melvin Brooks, Robert Davis, Carl Smith, Harold Shue, Booker Jackson and Mike McCoy. ba

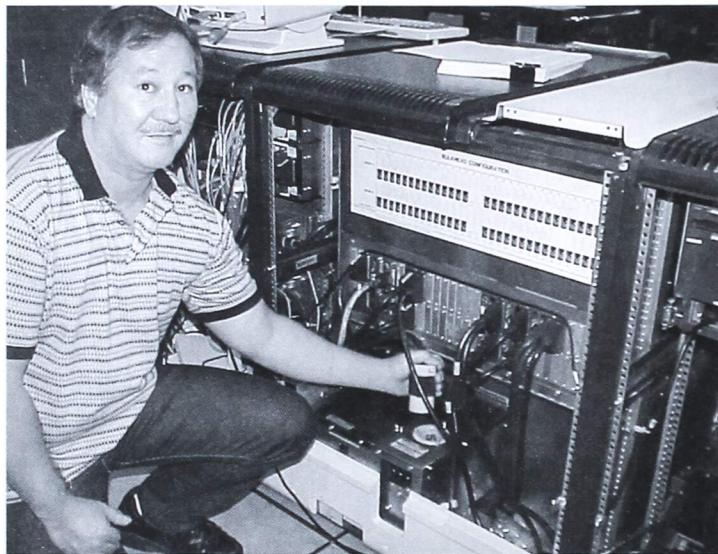
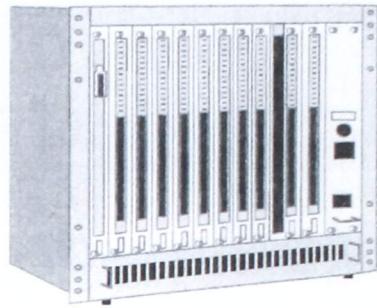
# "Old Faithful" Decommissioned

The last of the mainframe computers used to operate BART's train control system was decommissioned on March 1 and officially replaced by state-of-the-art Tandem computers that use a fault-tolerant UNIX system. In actuality, the newer computers had gone into service about two years ago and the larger Data General mainframe computers were phased out over a period of time.

Two Data General mainframe computers went into service just after the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 and were proprietary to BART, said Dave Warwick of systems engineering. "They were used over nine years and ran our trains, destination signs and fare collection system," he said, adding that, "it's an extensive process to move to the

UNIX system, which is a more open environment and more flexible."

Conversion to the Tandem computers actually began five years ago, with the newer computers going into operation about two years ago, he said. The fault tolerant diagnostics mean the computer "can have a failure and keep running," said Dave. "The system automatically requests any replacement parts and delivers them the next day." **b**



Computer Specialist Russ Bishop officially unplugged the last of the mainframe computers used to operate BART's train control system.



On hand for the event were: (front row, left to right) Dave Warwick, Vic Rivera, Babra Rosenberg, John Prowznik, Richard Pakulski and Doug Hom. (Back row, left to right) Frank Ruffa, Rudy Crespo, Gary Messenbrink, Mike Lighty, Kevin Kopley and Russ Bishop.

## BART Employees Show Holiday Spirit

BART employees in Customer Service and Media & Public Affairs joined forces last December to "Adopt a Family" through the county social services agency, which recently sent along its thanks to both departments.

Lynn Fischer in Customer Service took up a collection among employees in both departments to buy children's clothing and personal items for a single mother living in a shelter with two of her six children. The other four children are in foster homes while the mother completes a recovery program. "We bought sweatshirts for the kids and bath items and make-up for the mother," said Lynn. "When we visited the shelter to bring our presents, the mother was so excited she jumped up and down."

"Your generosity truly made a big difference," said Rodger G. Lum, Ph.D., Director of Alameda County's

Social Services Agency in a thank-you letter. "You have helped alleviate hardship and heartache."

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did for me and my children," wrote the mother, who noted that she had a chance to see all of her kids for Christmas, something she was unable to do the year before.

Lynn says the two departments will definitely participate this Holiday Season in the Adopt a Family program, and decided not to wait until Christmas to help the family. For Easter, the mother and children received an Easter basket and t-shirts. "Doing this is worthwhile and rewarding," says Lynn, who was moved by the poverty suffered by the shelter residents. "You don't appreciate what you have until you see what others don't have," she said. **b**



# Two BART Police Dogs Pass On

**T**wo BART Police dogs, one in active service and one retired, were recently euthanized due to serious health problems, reports Commander Gary Gee.

Officer Diego, known as Diego von Muhlenloog, was the canine partner of BART Police Officer Alfredo Zamora. He died on March 15 after an emergency hospital visit revealed Diego suffered from malignant tumors on his vital organs. Diego was 10 years old, and the team of Diego and Alfredo were together eight years.

Officer Eike, known as Eike von Shroedersh, was the canine partner of retired BART Police Officer Rosemary England and died February 9 after suffering from spinal problems and cancer. She was 11 years old. Eike and Rosemary were a team for four years until Rosemary retired from the BART Police Department in 1994.

The canine program is now down to two dogs, and Gary says the department will fill the two openings likely by the end of this year. Another dog, Officer Bill, left the police department when his partner left in 1996.

Both Diego and Eike were German Shepherds and will be replaced with dogs bred and trained at the Witmer Tyson Kennels in Redwood City. The kennel is operated by retired police officers who bring dogs from Germany to the Bay Area and train them for various law enforcement agencies. BART police officers selected for the canine pro-

gram will train with the dogs at the facility.

BART employees may recall that Fredo, one of the first German Shepherds placed into the BART Police reformed canine program in 1990, died in October 1997 from cancer. Fredo was 10 1/2 years old. He had entered the program at age 3 as Fredo von Schwarzen Gold, born in Germany.

Fredo teamed with Officer Sallie Farmer, who retired from the BART Police Department and became a dog trainer. Fredo served with distinction until late 1993.

The canine program is extremely valuable, Gary noted. The canine officers are "a valuable asset to fighting crime and enhance how the public perceives the police." 



BART Police Officer Alfredo Zamora and Diego.

## BART Hosts TSI Rail Safety Seminar

**A**t BART's invitation, the Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) recently brought its rail safety seminar to Oakland, allowing BART and other Bay Area transit systems to attend the course close to home. The seminar held March 1 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Oakland drew 16 participants from BART and ten more from other agencies in California, Texas, Missouri and New York.

"We were proud to host this prestigious safety course," said Mike Flanigan, Manager of System Safety for BART. System safety, he said, involves a "cradle to grave" approach, with safety built into the design, construction, system modification and operations of a transit system. The TSI course is intense and structured and valuable for anyone in public transit, Mike noted. Among topics the seminar covered were risk, hazard analysis, safety standards, fail-safe design and human factors.

BART General Manager Tom Margo welcomed seminar participants and thanked TSI for coming to Oakland. "Safety is top priority at BART," he said, adding that safety is everyone's responsibility. He also said the TSI course would give BART staff the improved skills and knowledge

required to meet their responsibilities.

Errol Taylor, Supervising Project Engineer on BART's SFO project, said the class was timely for him since the design-build contractor is conducting hazard analysis that BART staff must review as part of the safety certification process.

Participants in the five-day safety course earned continuing education credits. The course is sponsored by the federal Department of Transportation and presented by TSI throughout the United States. 



# BART Hosts 7th Annual Rodeo April 17

*Winners Advance to International Event in Toronto in May*

Maintainers, Train Operators and others will come together on April 17 to compete in safety and operating events in BART's 7th Annual Rodeo at the Hayward Yard. Competitors in eight categories can be declared the best in their field, and winners in the maintenance and train operator events will advance to represent BART at the APTA International Rodeo on May 22 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Last year, BART "brought home the Gold" as the BART Maintainers Team of David Mohn, F. James Riddle, Jr. and Edward "Ted" Christian took First Place at the American Public Transit Association's International Rail Rodeo competition held in San Diego in June 1998. The threesome repeated their victory from 1997, when they earned First Place honors in Washington, D.C. This also marked the third time a BART Maintainers Team has come in first, with the BART team having also won the event in 1994 in Sacramento.

BART has competed in the APTA Rodeo with a Maintainers Team since 1993, coming in second that year; first in 1994; third in 1995; eighth in 1996; and first in 1997 and 1998. Last year was James Riddle's fifth International Rodeo competition and his third first place win, the third time for Ted Christian and his second first place win; and the second competition for Dave Mohn, with two first place honors.

In addition to the competitive events, this year's BART Rodeo also offers a day of fun with musical entertainment, children's games, food, arts and crafts displays and information booths. Richmond Shop will once again host its popular fishing booth, while the Concord, Daly City and

Hayward shops will host food booths. Children can enjoy the Astro Jump, face painting and pony rides, along with an interactive display for computer projects and video games.

BART's Company Store will also be on hand with the latest BART logo items, and a special Beanie Baby Raffle. The tickets are \$1.00 each, and the Store will raffle off four Ty Bears along with a set of Bambino Baseball Bears. Tickets will only be sold at the Rodeo and you must be present to win. Profits from the raffle will go to a local charity.

This year's Rodeo will also be the site of the 4th Annual BART Car Show and the 2nd Annual BART Putting Contest. Cars will be shown and judged in five categories, Hot Rod, Custom, Truck, Restored and Motorcycle.

Of course, the BART Rodeo would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the BART Rodeo Committee. Thanks to Rebecca McCord, Rolf Sabye, Robert Smith, Dennis Kaczar, Ken Holmes, Dave Noecker, Martha Taylor, Larry Ziegler, Ellie Door, Sadie Williams, Starla Anderson, Nicole Brown, Ken Cook, Eric Thompson, Angie Cannon, Heath Cunningham, Tamar Allen, Pete Sklover, Michelle Cohen, Martha Halliwell and John Maher.

Thanks also to Steve Baldi for organizing the car show, and to Steve Chong for organizing the putting contest.

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## CPR

*Are you prepared to save a life?  
Possibly the life of a child —  
maybe one of your own?  
Or the life of a complete stranger?  
It could happen! Knowing how to  
apply CPR, cardiopulmonary resus-  
citation, could save a life.  
Call Ext.6292/6293.*

## For Computer Help, Call 7208

Computer users in need of assistance are reminded to call the Help Desk Hotline, which is on extension 7208. Help Desk activities are structured around the Help Call database system, which records vital information about each request, allowing Computer Support to allocate resources and track call progress. Stopping a Computer Support Coordinator in the hallway will not get you the same service as calling the Help Desk Hotline. So, please remember, requests for service must come through the hotline at extension 7208. b



# NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS

**ROBERT FRANKLIN** has joined BART as the Executive Staff Assistant to Controller-Treasurer Scott Schroeder. He had previously served in that capacity since November 1998 as a temporary employee. As Executive Staff Assistant, Robert is responsible for various administrative duties, including working with the accounting department to secure check requests and make bank deposits. He previously worked in the District Secretary's office and the Planning Department as a temporary employee. Prior to joining BART, Robert worked for the United States Forest Service as a firefighter in the Western states, and as an organic vegetable farmer in Davis. He holds a degree in English from Stanford University, lives in Berkeley and paints in his spare time.

**CECIL HOWELL** has been named Manager, Operations Liaison and has transferred to the West Bay Extensions Program in Millbrae. He is responsible



for providing operating guidance to the SFO project, including problem-solving, design review, criteria and interpretation. This is a lateral move for Cecil, who previously worked in Line and Yard Operations, Administration and was most recently the Central Manger in the Operations Control Center in Oakland. He spent 23 years in OCC, 18 of them as the manager. Cecil celebrates 27 years with BART this June.

**LARRY SCHWARM** has been promoted to the Central Maintenance Supervisor, overseeing systemwide vehicle maintenance and repair. He coordinates shop support to bring resources to bear for any kind of mechanical, electrical and electronic repair requirement, and directs field technicians. Larry has been with BART for 25 years and was most recently a lead mainline electronic technician. He was previously mainline electronic technician and shop transit vehicle electronic technician. 



## Congratulations to BART Retirees

**B**ART's Annual Retirement Dinner held February 25 honored several employees who have recently retired from the District. Congratulations and thanks for many years of dedicated service to: (first row, left to right) Wallace Weihe, James Blake, John McPherson, John Lodge, Ed Ricci, Frank Zichichi, Theodore Ng and Ken Beldin, along with (second row, left to right) Nancy Morgan, Ruth Ticoulat, Chris Apple, Pat Hoar, Marcia McBrayer, Gertie Taylor, John Farnham, Barbara Doyle, Emily Perez, Shirlee Baker and Judith Anguella. Congratulations also to (third row, left to right) Eleno Padilla, Alex Zermenio, Ralph Samuel, Boll Hazelwood, Norman Kruse, Chuck Costa, Marvin Dalander, Jim King, James Pate, Dick Kalman and Marty Birkenthal.

# Harvey Boddie Rescues Elderly Couple From Fire

**O**n the morning of January 26, Harvey Boddie was headed to his favorite restaurant to meet friends for breakfast. He takes the same route at the same time, headed on South 47th Street in Richmond. But when he got to the corner of Cypress Avenue, he saw smoke coming from the corner home of Nathan and Eureka Johnson.

"I was stopped at a stop sign, and saw the smoke," said Harvey. "Others were driving by, saw the smoke, and kept going." It was obvious there was a fire, and Harvey was amazed that apparently no one was doing anything.

He pulled over and knocked on the front door, finding a bewildered Eureka, 81, who had no idea there was a fire burning in her garage. She had been making breakfast while her husband, 83-year-old Nathan, was resting. As noted in a local newspaper article, Eureka said, "He came to the door and said the house was on fire and we've got to get out," she said. "That was a blessing, I'm telling you. A lot of people saw the smoke, but this man (Harvey) stopped to help us out."

Their son was asleep in the back bedroom. Harvey ran and woke him up, grabbing coats for the elderly couple and escorted the family out of the house. In a moment of chaos, Nathan thought his wife was still in the house and went back in. Harvey went after him and got him back out again. By that time, flames had engulfed the garage and consumed part of the rooftop.

"The flames seemed to be getting bigger and bigger," Harvey told the newspaper, recalling looking back after he

got the Johnson family safely out of the house. "They were just shooting out from the top of the garage."

An off-duty firefighter also saw the smoke and stopped at the house as Harvey was trying to get the family outside. He got on his radio and called the Richmond Fire Department. Firefighters arrived from Richmond and El Cerrito and took an hour to douse the flames from the garage and stripped shingles to contain the fire. The fire inspector determined there was a faulty electrical wire in the garage that sparked a fire and knocked out electricity to surrounding homes. The damage to structure and content was estimated at \$75,000.

Eureka would admit to smelling something, but really had no idea anything was on fire. Harvey went back to the house later in the day to make sure everyone was all right and to help clean up the shingles. Eureka told the newspaper, "Someone should give (Harvey) a donation or a medal."

The Richmond City Council agreed. On February 16, the Mayor and City Council honored Harvey with a Proclamation lauding his act of bravery and courage. He was also named Citizen of the Month. Harvey, who has been working as a transit vehicle mechanic at Richmond Shop for about a year, is a retired Navy veteran who received some fire rescue training while in the service. He said he stopped at the Johnson house because he wanted to help. "I guess I was just in the right place at the right time," he said. "It was the right thing to do." 



**20 Years with BART:** BART employees who recently achieved 20 years of service include (left to right) John Stamas, Victoria Jennings and Gary Martineau. 



**15 Years with BART:** BART employees who recently achieved 15 years with the District include (left to right) Clifton Johnson, Jacquelyne Alexander, Glenn Huff, LaToya Ward, Eugene Nishenaga, Vivian Faye and Wayne Harada. 

# Roy Maffei and Anna Wong Remembered

The BART family has lost two very cherished members in Roy Maffei and Anna Wong

**R**oy Maffei died February 26 from cancer at age 62. He had retired from BART two years ago. Roy was known as a master electrical and control design engineer, an avid railroad fan, and a great friend to many, said Leon Oakley. A long-time BART employee, Roy was one of the few who worked on the system in its early planning stages, Leon noted. He was respected for his engineering talent and loved as a dear friend.

"He was my best friend, but I am sure he was a best friend to many other people," said Leon. "He was always willing to lend a helping hand, often times sacrificing his own free time to help complete a project." Roy was also active in the community, said Leon, helping in lighting work for theater productions at Riordan High School in San Francisco. He was also a regular at the San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet and the Carmel Bach Festival. "Roy was also an avid 49er fan and a season ticket holder with the family for many years," Leon added. "You could count on him at every 49er home game."

At Roy's request, he was buried at sea by the Neptune Society, said Leon. On March 18, about 30 family members and close friends rode a yacht out to the Golden Gate Bridge and toward Angel Island, where his ashes were scattered. Afterwards, many more friends joined the family to pay tribute to Roy at the Italian American Club in San Francisco.

A note sent to the family by Richard Rounke and signed by more than 25 other co-workers said, in part, "We want you to know how much we appreciated and loved Roy. He was not just a great engineer, he was a personal friend to us. His sense of humor complimented his professional skill in a way that helped make our work fun; he will be missed but not forgotten."

"I loved talking and laughing with him," said Kathryn Roth. He also left fond memories for Harley Goldstrom. "My children came every year to partake in the enchanting train display put up by Roy and Leon in the engineering department," he said. "My children are now teenagers - what great memories."

"I was saddened to hear of Roy's death," said Ron Edmondson, who worked with Roy on AFC-related projects some years ago. "He was a very good man and always very helpful to me. I will miss him." Steve Kappler remembers fun-filled lunches at Joe's of Westlake after the Colma extension was complete. "We basically laughed for two hours at a time," he recalled. "He was a great guy and a dedicated engineer." J. Barry Love was a shipmate with Roy in 1961 on the USS Alvin C. Cockrell in Alameda. "His passing leaves a hole in my life," said Barry.

"I have very fond memories of him," said Jay Burns, who retired from BART in early 1996 as Group Manager of Design and Construction, where Roy worked before going over to the Extensions Program. "Roy was a unique individual," said Jay, who knew Roy more than 20 years. "He had insight into everything electrical, and had a solid reputation with Operations for knowing what to do in a risk situation. Roy was a 'Midnight Hero' and able to make a tough call when it was needed. His batting average on those tough calls was exceptionally high." Jay also remembers the Holiday model railroad displays put up for the enjoyment of others by Roy and Leon, who together were dedicated railroad buffs. "Every year, it got more complex."

A life-long San Francisco resident, Roy is survived by his brother Dan Maffei and Dan's wife, Diane, and his Uncle Ivan Maffei. Donations may be made in Roy's name to the California State Railroad Museum, 111 I Street, Sacramento, CA 94814 or the Friends of the Cumbres Toltec, 5732 Osuna, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

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**A**nna Wong died on June 19 from breast cancer at age 38. She was a senior systems engineer in Maintenance and Engineering and had worked for BART for about eight and one-half years. "Aside from being an extremely talented and dedicated software systems engineer, Anna was a wonderful person," said Frank Ruffa. "She always smiled, never complained, and affected everyone with her cheerful attitude."

Her passing is a particularly painful loss, he noted. "Those who had the pleasure of knowing and working with Anna were all enriched by her gaiety, grace and, most of all, her courage in the face of the inevitable." Frank said Anna had fought a valiant battle for over nine years. "We will miss her terribly," he said, adding that her husband, Jerry, told him that Anna smiled up to the end and asked Jerry to thank everyone at BART, to not forget anyone. "That's our Anna," said Frank.

Services for Anna were held February 24 at the Albert Brown Mortuary in Oakland and she was laid to rest in Mountain View Cemetery, also in Oakland. Donations may be made in her name to the American Cancer Society by providing her full name and address: Anna Yuk Yu Wong, 431 Indian Bay, Alameda, CA 94502. Contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345. **b**



## Montessori *continued from front page*

view the underside of the train from the work pit," said Gregory, "and to sit in the Train Operator's cab." After posing for a group photo, everyone got on a BART train and rode up to the Pittsburg/Bay Point BART Station and back again.

"The whole field trip was a lot of fun for me and the kids," Gregory said. "I'm grateful for the help and cooperation from all of the BART employees who were involved in making this a great experience for some very excited little children – and the adults thought it was neat, too."

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## Bowling *continued from front page*

The league recently welcomed four new bowlers to the festivities. Linda and James Bodley became first-time BART bowlers in February, while the March tourney welcomed Pam Dawson and Aaron Rucker. "Remember, players just have to pay the house for three games, which averages just \$2.00 a game," says league coordinator Andy Williams. Trophies go to the Top Five scorers for women and men. The top scoring game and series are also recognized. The singles tournament is played using the handicap system.

The tournament held February 20 saw Top Game go to Joe Olson and Glenda Jennings-Olson, with Glenda Lewis winning High Series for the women. The men's High Series tied between James Bonds and Andy Williams. Congratulations to Top Five winners James and Andy, along with Joe, Arthur Lewis and Glenda. Joining newcomers Linda and James Bodley in the fun at Holiday Bowl in Hayward were Harry Straub, Suzanne and Johnnie Hicks, Al Browder and David Freeman.

"March Madness" was the theme for the tourney held on March 20 at Castro Village in Castro Valley with Johnnie Hicks leading the way as top bowler for the afternoon. He was joined in the Top Five by David Freeman, James Bonds, Joe Olson and Andy Williams. High Series went to Tina Sanders and David Freeman, while Top Game went to Glenda Jennings-Olson and Johnnie Hicks. Newcomers Aaron Rucker and Pam Dawson each enjoyed a good series, along with fellow bowlers Harry Straub, Dick Jann, Al Browder, Thelma Brown, James Bodley, Glenda and Arthur Lewis, and Suzanne Hicks.

"Come on out and join us to bowl for the fun," said Andy. The next singles bowling tournament is Saturday, April 17 at 3 p.m. at Diablo Valley Bowl, 1500 Monument Blvd. in Concord. The tournament is open to BART employees, their friends and family over age 18. For more information, call Andy Williams at ext. 5153 or Glenda Jennings-Olson at ext. 4168. b



### 49er Fans.

Three seats for the entire season. Located in Upper Reserve, Section 13, Row 20, aisle seats. \$1,600.

Call Mary at 408/725-1335.

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## BARTalk

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Oakland, CA 94607

A publication for and about the employees of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

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